

Our Nation's former prisoners of war have helped secure the priceless gift of freedom for all our citizens, and we will always be grateful to them and their families. On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day and throughout the year, we honor the American heroes who have been taken as prisoners of war and remember their legacy of bravery and selflessness.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2007, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring the service and sacrifices of all American prisoners of war. I call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., April 6, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Message on the Observance of Easter 2007

April 6, 2007

"Rejoice!"

Matthew 28:9

Laura and I send greetings to all those celebrating the glorious Easter holiday.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event of the Christian faith. Easter morning holds wonder and promise, and it is a chance for people everywhere to gather with family and friends to celebrate the power of love conquering death. In this season of renewal, we can rejoice in Christ's rising, draw strength and inspiration from

His example, and remember that in the end, even death itself will be defeated.

This Easter we pray for all our men and women in uniform and for the military families whose loved ones are deployed on important missions in distant lands. We remember especially those who have given their lives in freedom's cause.

On this powerful day, let us join together and give thanks to the Almighty for the glory of His grace.

Happy Easter, and may God bless you.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 8122—400th Anniversary of Jamestown, 2007

April 6, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Four centuries ago, after a long journey, a small group of colonists stepped boldly onto the shores of the New World and established the first permanent English settlement in North America. During the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, America honors the early pioneers whose epic of endurance and courage started the story of our Nation.

The ideals that distinguish and guide the United States today trace back to the Virginia settlement where free enterprise, the rule of law, and the spirit of discovery took hold in the hearts and practices of the American people. Noble institutions and grand traditions were established in Jamestown. Amid tremendous difficulties, a determined few worked the land and expanded into the wilderness. Without knowing it, the colonists who built communities at Jamestown laid the foundation for a Nation that would become the ultimate symbol and force for freedom throughout the entire world.

Much has changed in the 400 years since that three-sided fort was raised on the banks of the James River. Today, we are a strong and growing Nation of more than 300 million, and we are blessed to live in a land of

plenty during a time of great prosperity. The long struggle that started at Jamestown has inspired generations of Americans. Advancing the right to live, work, and worship in liberty is the mission that created our country, the honorable achievement of our ancestors, and the calling of our time.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim 2007 as the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this milestone by honoring the courage of those who came before us, participating in appropriate programs and celebrations, and visiting this historic site with family and friends.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:52 a.m., April 10, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 11.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 31

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony for President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil. Later, he and President Lula da Silva had a meeting.

April 1

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon.

April 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared a major disaster in New Mexico and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on March 23–24.

April 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

April 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Fort Irwin, CA, arriving in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a briefing and demonstration at the U.S. Army National Training Center. He then had lunch with military personnel and their families. Later, he met with family members of soldiers killed in Iraq.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Los Angeles, CA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Hannah Locke. Later, at a private residence, he attended a Republican National Committee reception.

In the evening, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to the White House on April 26, and on April 27 the President and Prime Minister Abe will meet at Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles L. English to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The President announced his intention to nominate Miriam K. Hughes to be Ambassador to Micronesia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cameron P. Munter to be Ambassador to Serbia.